



The Monocacy River Management Plan

Frequently Asked Questions – February 2, 2017

What is the Monocacy Scenic River Management Plan?

The State of Maryland designated the Monocacy River as a Scenic and Wild River in 1974. The Maryland Department of Natural Resources (DNR) managed the preparation of the first Monocacy River Management Plan in 1990. DNR worked with the Monocacy Scenic River Citizens' Advisory Board (River Board) and staff from Frederick and Carroll Counties in preparing the 1990 Plan, which was approved by both counties and the state. The 2016/2017 Draft Monocacy Scenic River Management Plan (Draft Plan) represents an update to the 1990 Plan.

The Draft Plan describes the River's ecology, environmental resources, natural & cultural history, and also contains recommendations for enhancement and protection of its corridor.

The Draft Plan is not a legally binding document. It is similar to other County planning documents, such as the Historic Preservation Plan and the Land Preservation, Parks and Recreation Plan, which contain recommendations and policy guidance for local government actions and land use decisions.

The Draft Plan was released for public comment on October 6, 2016, via the River Board's web page. A formal press release announcing the creation of the Draft Plan was issued on October 13, 2016, by Frederick County. Carroll County posted the release of the Plan within the *News* section of the County's homepage. Copies of the Plan were placed in several County libraries for public review.

Who will review and approve the Plan?

Once the River Board finally approves their Draft Plan, it will be forwarded to local officials in both Frederick and Carroll Counties for further review and consideration. The Draft Plan will then be presented to both the Frederick and Carroll County Planning Commissions for review and recommendation.

In Frederick County, the County Council reviews and approves the Plan before sending to the County Executive for review and approval. In Carroll County, the Board of County Commissioners reviews and approves the Plan.

The Plan will also be presented to the City of Frederick and Town of Walkersville for their consideration.

What is the River Board and what role do they have with this Plan?

The River Board is a citizen body whose role is to advocate for the Monocacy River. The members are volunteers appointed by Frederick and Carroll County elected officials. The River Board has ten (10)

members, five (5) each from Frederick and Carroll Counties, and is administered by staff from both Counties.

The Draft Plan represents the River Board's advisory recommendations to the respective County elected officials. The River Board does not have authority to enact regulation or legislation.

What happened to the previously proposed Monocacy River Resource Protection Areas (MRRPA) and the Ecologically Significant Areas (ESA)?

In response to concerns received during the public comment process, the River Board voted to remove the MRRPA's from further consideration during their regular monthly meeting on February 1, 2017.

In response to concerns received during the public comment process, the River Board voted to remove the ESA's from further consideration during their regular monthly meeting on January 4, 2017.

What are the FEMA Floodplain lines? (Blue Lines on map)

The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) has mapped areas along significant waterways that flood during a "100 year storm." The 100 year storm is a rainfall event that has a 1% chance of occurring in one year. Current regulations in the Frederick County Zoning Ordinance prohibit the construction of structures within the 100-year floodplain and require an additional 25-foot setback of structures from the 100-year floodplain line. Questions regarding these existing regulations can be addressed by your local government planning or zoning office.

Does the Plan recommend a walking or biking path along the Monocacy?

No, the Draft Plan does not recommend a walking or biking path along the Monocacy River.

Does the Plan recommend the government's taking of private property through eminent domain or the creation of easements to allow public use of private property?

No, the Draft Plan does not recommend the taking of any property or land owner property rights.

Does the Plan recommend the creation of more public access points to the Monocacy River?

Yes, the Draft Plan includes a recommendation for purchase of land for public uses along the River for conservation, parkland development, or River access. The Plan also recommends that safe access points be maintained as a public amenity. However, these would be on publicly owned land, not private property.

What are the next steps in the development of the Plan?

During the River Board's February 1, 2017, meeting, members agreed to review all comments received on the Draft Plan thus far. Revisions to the Draft Plan, reflecting the public comments received, will be considered at the next River Board public meeting, scheduled for the evening of Wednesday, March 1,

2017. The meeting is expected to begin at 7 pm at the Taneytown Fire Department (2nd Floor), 39 East Baltimore Street, Taneytown, MD.

The River Board will be inviting additional public comment on a *revised* Draft Plan once changes are incorporated therein, in the next few months.

Once the River Board finally approves the Draft Plan, it will be forwarded to Frederick County, Carroll County, the City of Frederick, and the Town of Walkersville for review and possible adoption, likely in the spring of 2017. Additional opportunities for public review and comment will be provided at that time.

Summary

Approval of the Monocacy River Management Plan by the River Board does not mandate the implementation of any of its recommendations.

The Plan's suggested recommendations are proposed for consideration and to encourage collaboration among interested parties to improve and protect the Monocacy Scenic River's unique and sensitive resources.

The goal of the suggested recommendations is to advocate for sustainable land uses, best management practices, and activities that respect and protect the River, its corridor and watershed.